(c) the percentage of total population in the country that watches Doordarshan alongwith the percentage of those watching other channels; and

(d) whether Government propose to provide one T.V. set free of cost to all the villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : (a) Prasar Bharati, a statutory autonomous corporation, ha : autonomy in Programme matters. Prasar Bharati has informed that Hourly News Bulletins are telecast round the clock on its National Network. Several Regional Kendras have also increased the number of news bulletins.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that improvement in the news bulletins of Doordarshan is a continuous process. Every effort is made to verify facts and due attention is given to represent various view points. Emphasis is placed on fairness, objectivity and accuracy in the news bulletins.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan caters to 82 million TV household in the country, whereas cable and satellite channels reach only 40 million households.

(d) There is no such proposal.

Proposal for creation of Broadcasting Authority

3194. SHRI MATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to create a Broadcasting Authority to regulate broadcast content;

(b) whether internet will be within the ambit of this authority; and

(c) if not, the manner in which it would be regulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (c) A proposal to introduce a suitable legislation for regulating content broadcast on Electronic Media is under consideration.